



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held August 12, 2008, the Board took the following action:

16

Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

“There has been considerable speculation in the past several months concerning the possible efforts at the State level to divert or reprogram ‘First 5 Dollars’ to address the State budget crisis. These funds were established in 1998 through the passage of Proposition 10 and are overseen locally by the First 5 Los Angeles Commission.

“Since that time, a number of significant programs and initiatives dedicated to enhancing the well-being of children ages zero-5 were launched, including Los Angeles Universal Preschool, Partnerships for Families, School Readiness, Oral Health and Nutrition, and Best Start LA. In addition, First 5 dollars support the work of the Children’s Planning Council and have also played an integral part in Los Angeles County priorities for children and families, including the Safe Surrender program, the ongoing efforts to assist homeless families, the Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project and the Steps to Excellence program.

“Currently, the Commission is focused on ensuring the long-term sustainability of these programs, as opposed to developing new programs, and they have consistently taken steps to ensure that these programs continue to be both programmatically germane and fiscally viable for years to come.

“Obviously, the Legislature and the Governor are in the process of making some very difficult fiscal decisions. First and foremost in my mind is the serious concerns I have, which this Board shares, regarding the possible cuts to safety net programs that benefit and protect the most vulnerable families in our communities. However, it would be short-sighted to divert or reprogram First 5 funds to fill budgetary gaps of any kind, particularly when the programs these funds are supporting have a proven relevance and demonstrable benefit to children.”

(Continued on Page 2)

16 (continued)

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Yaroslavsky, Knabe and Burke; Noes: None; Abstentions: Supervisor Antonovich; Absent: Supervisor Molina, the Board took the following actions:

1. Directed the County's Legislative Advocates in Sacramento to oppose efforts by the State Legislature and the Governor to divert or reprogram First 5 funds to address the State budget crisis; and
2. Send a letter to Governor Schwarzenegger and the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation advising them of the Board's opposition to such efforts.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor

Chief Executive Officer

County Counsel

Director of Children and Family Services